

Special Interest Articles:

- WATER Center Grand Opening on October 16th
- New Anti-tethering Ordinance
- Just for Kids!

Individual Highlights:

Animal Control	2
Air Quality	2
Child Care	2
Compliance	2
Food	3
Tobacco Sales	4
Mulching	4



WATER Center Grand Opening

Almost fifteen years ago, routine testing of the groundwater detected contamination in the vicinity of downtown Wichita. The 3850-acre area discovered was dubbed the "Gilbert-Mosley Site" as these were the two streets that crossed at the point of first discovery of the contamination.

Preliminary tests found the primary contaminants to be chlorinated solvents. Wichita's groundwater was contaminated with the chlorinated solvents as a result of historical industrial activities in the area.

Located in Herman Hill Park, the WATER Center, the treatment facility for the Gilbert-Mosley Project, will officially open at 1:30 p.m. on October 16th, 2003.

The facility houses a hydraulic-venturi air stripper treatment system needed to clean the polluted groundwater that is designed to encourage public interest and observation on how groundwater is remediated. The other half of the remediation

system consists of 5.5 miles of conveyance piping and 13 extraction wells, which extract and convey the polluted groundwater to the WATER Center. The system will operate to limit the spread of and remove the contaminated groundwater.

In addition, WATER Center visitors will discover a variety of hands-on exhibits focused on the Gilbert-Mosley project, pollution, and the unique and life-supporting qualities of water.

Two on-site aquariums display native aquatic species and offer information on why these small creatures are so dependent on water quality.

Although the Center's exhibits are still under construction, staff is available for scheduled programs and tours.

The WATER Center is seeking donations to fund the facility's interactive water-quality exhibits. For more information contact Libby Albers, 268-8472.

Grand Opening Events October 16, 2003

Ribbon Cutting

Ceremonial Speakers

Activation of the
Fountains and Water
Features

Tours of the Treatment
Facility

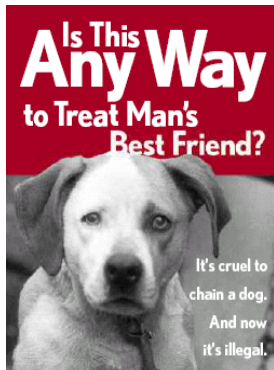
Nature Walks

Fish Puzzles

Kids Crafts

World Monitoring Day
Activities





Air pollution levels are typically higher in urban areas than in more rural settings.



At the end of another Ozone season, the Wichita area remains below the national standards for ozone.

Recent downward trends in ozone levels look promising, but much work remains to be done if Wichita is to remain under the ozone limit.

Look for tips to help reduce ground-level ozone in future issues.

The Wichita Department of Environmental Health will continue to work hard to ensure all Wichitans can "breathe a little easier!"



New Anti-Tethering Ordinance

As of Friday, September 12, 2003, the anti-tethering ordinance is now law in the City of Wichita.

Tethering of dogs is considered to be inhumane by local and national animal welfare authorities and is cited by animal behaviorists as a factor in increased aggression.

If this law is broken, the perpetrator may be subject to penalties of up to a \$500 fine and/or six months in jail.

Exclusively chaining a dog causes aggressive behavior and makes it a danger to society. The

dog learns that it cannot run away if it feels threatened, so it becomes aggressive to frighten danger away.

The community advocates worked with Environmental Health officials to bring about the change. Together, it was passed through the local District Advisory Boards and the recommendation was made to City Council.

In an effort to communicate these changes in the ordinance, an insert, sponsored by local companies, went out in every City of Wichita water bill.

City Ordinance 6.04

- It is unlawful to keep a dog tethered in place for more than one hour at a time.
- After a break of three hours, the dog may be tethered again for one hour, but for no more than a total of three hours per day.
- The tether – whether it is a chain, leash or rope – must be at least 10 feet long and weigh less than 1/8th of the animal's body weight.
- The tether must be attached to a collar or harness to prevent injury.
- The dog must be tethered to prevent strangulation, injury or entanglement.

Contact Animal Control
(316) 268-8473

Environmental Compliance Program

Over the past year, a variety of environmental activities have been implemented to improve the City's environmental protection and compliance.

A new City administrative regulation was approved by the City Manager called - *Environmental Stewardship and Compliance*.

Environmental Health, Public Works, and Water & Sewer department representatives have

trained approximately 400 management and professional staff on the new Environmental Stewardship and Compliance policy and environmental protection actions that employees can do at work and at home.

As a result of the training, many interdepartmental environmental issues have been identified and actions taken for improvement.

All departments have assigned at least one

individual as an "environmental coordinator".

City personnel may contact their department's environmental coordinator for department-specific environmental information.

Three major City facilities have had compliance audits conducted to assess their status with federal, state and local requirements. By the end of the year, other departments will be developing and implement self-inspection programs.

Child Care Licensure Evaluates School Programs

The Child Care Licensure Program is in the busy time for evaluation of the School Age Programs.

Eighty-nine of these programs are to be evaluated for licensure this year.

Personnel are also evaluating all thirty Pre-School programs at the start of the school year.

Just For Kids

HAND WASHING WORD FIND

	<i>Hint:</i>	<i>Answer:</i>
MGSER	<i>These are what make you sick.</i>	_____
SVURI	<i>This is one type of germ.</i>	_____
DSNHA	<i>What you should always wash.</i>	_____
TRWAE	<i>What you wash your hands with.</i>	_____
SAPO	<i>This helps to eliminate germs.</i>	_____
SEADSE	<i>What germs can cause.</i>	_____

Good Eats from the Food Program

Koo Koo Roo®
Original Skinless Flame-Broiled Chicken

Marinade

1 cup water
1 cup apple juice
1 cup V-8 juice
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 cup pineapple juice
1 cup chopped onion
2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons ground black pepper

1 whole chicken, skinned and cut into 8 pieces
(legs, thighs, breasts, and wings)

Baste

2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
1/2 cup thinly sliced onions
1 10-ounce can tomato puree
1/4 cup water
1 tablespoon white vinegar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon salt
dash ground black pepper

1. Combine all of the ingredients for the marinade in a medium bowl. Mix well.
2. Add chicken to the marinade and leave it for at least 24 hours. It's even better if you let the chicken marinate longer, for as much as 48 to 72 hours.
3. Sometime before the chicken is done marinating, prepare the basting sauce by heating 1 teaspoon of the oil in a medium skillet. Sauté the sliced onions until they begin to blacken a bit. Pour the onions into a medium saucepan with the other baste ingredients. Bring mixture to a full boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat. When cool, cover the baste and chill until it's needed.
4. When you are ready to cook the chicken, fire up your grill to medium heat. Grill the chicken for 5 to 6 minutes, then turn it over and grill for another 5 to 6 minutes. Turn chicken over once more and brush the top with the baste. Grill for another 5 to 6 minutes, then turn the chicken over again, baste the other side, and cook it until it's done -- around 20 to 24 minutes total cooking time that will vary from piece to piece. You should see a few charred black spots on the surface of the chicken, but don't let it burn. Serves 4.

Food Handler's Classes

In an effort to better serve the community, food handler's classes are offered every first and third Saturdays of the month (excluding holiday weekend).

Classes are scheduled at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Monday classes are scheduled at 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the first and third Mondays.

In addition, the Food Section is creating an online food handler's class that will be offered on the department website. Keep

watching this newsletter for the official launch date!



Tip from Code Enforcement

Keep the little ghosts, goblins and rock-star wanna-be's safe on Halloween.

Ordinance 7.08.050 requires that all tree waste be removed from the property within seven days and that it be disposed of by a licensed waste hauler.

Make sure everyone has a safe Halloween by eliminating potential tripping hazards.



The Environmental Health Food Section would like to extend a warm welcome to our most recently hired Public Health Sanitarian, Mrs. Amy Morris. With the addition of Mrs. Morris the Food Section is now fully staffed.

Published by:

City of Wichita

Department of

Environmental Health

www.wichitaenvironment.org

1900 E. 9th
Wichita, KS
67214

PHONE:
(316) 268-8351

FAX:
(316) 268-8390

**Director**

Jack Brown

**Environmental
Services Supervisor**

Roger Smith

**Environmental
Compliance Manager**

Kay Johnson

Editor:

Libby Albers

Contributors:

Mark Bradshaw
Jack Brown
Ted Cooper
Nicey Franklin
Keith Hall
Kay Johnson
Doris Leslie
Shauna Lockette
Amy Morris
Shirley O'Dell R.N.
Randy Owen
John Stark

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wichitaenvironment.org

Tobacco Sales to Minors

One of the lesser-known activities of the Environmental Health Department involves enforcement of the City's ordinance prohibiting tobacco sales to minors.

Food Protection staff, accompanied by minor-aged volunteers, conduct monthly compliance checks in local establishments.

Following training, volunteers attempt to

purchase tobacco products, and citations are issued to clerks making illegal sales.

License holders are notified by mail when their employees refuse to make such sales, or when illegal sales occur.

Enforcement of the local ordinance by Environmental Health staff results in a better than average compliance rate for Wichita.

The current year-to-date Compliance rate is in excess of ninety percent -- ten percent better than goals set by the federal government.

Enforcement activities are totally funded by local tobacco vendor license fees.



Benefits of Mulching

With autumn comes the falling of tree leaves and the issue of what to do with them.

Many people wonder if it's still legal to bag leaves and have them picked up by their trash service.

Presently, it is still legal to bag your leaves and have them removed, but a far better plan is to mulch them into your yard to replenish nutrients.

Mulching is good for two reasons:

1) You won't have to fertilize as often and take the risk of over-fertilizing and possibly polluting ground water.

2) You won't be adding to the problem of filling up landfills so quickly.

It is possible to mulch tree leaves even if you don't have a mulching mower.

You can rake the leaves into large piles and run over them several times with a standard mower.

After each mowing, you can quickly rake the leaves together again and mow over them again.

In just a few cycles you will reduce a very large pile of tree leaves to a fine mulch that can be raked out to cover the yard.

About Our Department...

The mission of the Department of Environmental Health is *Protecting People... Preserving the Environment*. This mission is realized through our services, programs and projects that focus on environmental monitoring, code enforcement, and education.

